

ELD 197

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Preliminary Training by "Dienst fuer Deutschland" of the SED

25X1A

EVALUATION

25X1A

DATE OF CONT

DATE OBTAINED

REFERENCES

PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

25X1X

SOURCE

25X1X

1. Following an announcement at one of the recent Party rallies of the SED at Grimma that all 18- to 30-year-old members will be called to a 3-month course of instruction, several men received induction orders in late May 1953. On 26 May 1953, 40 persons, 18 to 30 years old, were drafted into the KVP in Leipzig. On 31 May 1953, five members of the Grimma football team had also to report to the Wurzen KVP. The induction orders were dispatched by the Kreis Registration Department which was installed in the Sports- and-Technics Building on Kochler Strasse in Grimma near the former county office. The staff of the Kreis Registration Department also included KVP Senior Lieutenant Alfred Ottmeier.
2. In late May 1953, source learned at the Chemnitz-Land Kreis Registration Department that courses of instruction, which allegedly served physical training under the designation of "Dienst fuer Deutschland", were scheduled to be held between 15 June and 15 September 1953. This measure was allegedly based on a resolution formed at a meeting of the central committee with Major General Bernhardt Bechler acting as chairman. All members and candidates of the SED who are 18 to 30 years old and did not serve in the former German Armed Forces longer than two years, were subject to participation in the courses. The courses, which were of a military nature, will be held in summer field camps, at which mass examinations will also be performed. Measures of organization were taken by the Ministry of the Interior and the SED under strictest secrecy. All members of the staff of the Ministry of the Interior who were assigned this mission had to wear civilian clothes. Former NCOs down to the rank of sergeant will allegedly be inducted at a later date.

25X1A

25X1A

comment. A previous report by another source mentioned that members of the SED and the FDJ, who were between 18 and 30 years old, were scheduled to receive preliminary training. The present report shows that this peace was apparently in the state of execution in late May. Press reports indicated that in early June 1953 the central committee of the SED cancelled these decisions, probably because of the new political situation in East Germany, but maintained the program for recruiting and induction of volunteers.

CLASSIFICATION SECRET/CONTINOL - U.S.OFFICIALS ONLY